

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

image forming stations for respective colors arranged along a transfer belt, each said image forming station including an image carrier;

a charging means and a developing means disposed around said image carrier; ~~said image-forming apparatus further comprising~~

a housing body in which said image forming stations and said transfer belt are situated;

a support frame for supporting rollers around which said transfer belt is laid with some tension; ~~and~~

an image density detecting means which is arranged to face said transfer belt; and

a locking means for locking said support frame to the housing body;

wherein said support frame is attached to the housing body such that the support frame is detachable relative to the housing body by means of pivotal movement; ~~and said image-forming apparatus being characterized by further having a locking means for locking said support frame to the housing body;~~

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wherein said image density detecting means is ~~disposed~~ connected to the support frame,
in proximity to said locking means.

2. (original): An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said transfer belt is a paper carrying belt.

3. (original): An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said transfer belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

4. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
image forming stations for respective colors arranged along a transfer belt, each said image forming station including an image carrier,
a charging means and a developing means disposed around said image carrier, ~~said~~
~~image forming apparatus further comprising~~
a housing body in which said image forming stations and said transfer belt are situated,
a support frame for supporting rollers around which said transfer belt is laid with some tension, ~~and~~

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an image density detecting means which is arranged to face said transfer belt; ~~said~~
~~image forming apparatus being characterized in that~~

wherein said support frame is attached to the housing body such that the support frame is
detachable relative to the housing body by means of pivotal movement; and

wherein said image density detecting means is ~~disposed~~ connected to the support frame,
in proximity to one of said rollers which is the nearest to the pivot of said support frame.

5. (original): An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said
transfer belt is a paper carrying belt.

6. (original): An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said
transfer belt is an intermediate transfer belt.